

A. Underwood, of Guam; Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan; and President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines.

### **Exchange With Reporters on Departure From Tokyo**

*November 20, 1998*

#### **Impeachment Inquiry**

**Q.** Mr. President, we were told that you were briefed today on the Judiciary Committee hearings back in Washington. Can you tell us what was your impression about the hearings? What kind of guidance did you give your attorney David Kendall about his accusation that Kenneth Starr was guilty of prosecutorial misconduct? And what do you think about the subpoenas for Bruce Lindsey and Bennett?

**The President.** Well, first of all, I got only a cursory briefing. I didn't see any of the hearings, and I really can't comment on how they went. I only became aware recently, I think after I left, that Mr. Kendall was going to be able to ask some questions. So I don't know. My understanding is that he essentially asked questions consistent with the letter he had written both to Mr. Starr and the Attorney General several weeks ago. But beyond that, I don't know. I really haven't talked to anybody back in Washington. I just got a general, cursory review of that.

**Q.** You didn't say anything to him about prosecutorial misconduct?

**The President.** I believe that—I don't know this because I haven't seen it, and I haven't talked to anybody—my understanding generally was that the issues he raised were issues he had raised months ago—at least several weeks ago. He wrote a letter to Mr. Starr and wrote a letter to the Attorney General. But I don't know very much about it. I've been here working on these economic and security issues, so I really can't say.

**Q.** And the subpoenas of Bennett and Lindsey?

**The President.** I'm not concerned about it, but I think Mr. Lindsey's subpoena was covered by previous decisions, but my understanding is that a subpoena for Mr. Bennett is without any precedent. That is, as far as I know, there has never been a case where

a person's lawyer was asked to come and testify, but you will have to talk to them because I really—I haven't been there. I haven't been involved in it. I don't know what they're saying, and we'll just have to see what happens.

I've got work to do here on the American economy and on these security issues, so that's all being handled by people back in Washington.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:05 p.m. at Haneda Airport prior to the President's departure for Seoul, South Korea. In his remarks, the President referred to his personal attorneys David Kendall and Robert Bennett; and Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **November 14**

In the afternoon, the President met with his national security team to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The White House announced that the President hopes to complete the Japan, South Korea, and Guam portions of the Asia trip, but that Vice President Al Gore will represent the United States at the APEC summit.

#### **November 17**

The President announced his intention to nominate Gary S. Guzy to be General Counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced the following winners of the 1998 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award: Boeing Airlift and Tanker Programs, Long Beach, CA; Solar Turbines, Inc., San Diego, CA; and Texas Nameplate Co., Inc., Dallas, TX.

**November 18**

In the morning, the President traveled to Tokyo, Japan, arriving at approximately midnight.

The White House announced that the President will welcome His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the United States for a pastoral visit to St. Louis, MO, on January 26, 1999.

**November 19**

In the afternoon, the President met with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at the Imperial Residence.

The President announced his intention to appoint Irene Rosenberg Wurtzel as a member of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.

**November 20**

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan at Akasaka Palace. Following their meetings, the President and the Prime Minister briefed members of the press.

In the evening, the President traveled to Seoul, South Korea.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on October 21, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**


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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

**Released November 14**

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart on the President's decision not to

attend the APEC summit due to the situation in Iraq

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger on the situation in Iraq

Statement by the Press Secretary on the agreement in Buenos Aires to settle by the end of 2000 key issues arising from the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Report to the President From Tipper Gore: Presidential Delegation to Central America

Fact sheet: Administration Response to Hurricane Mitch

**Released November 15**

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Hugh Shelton on the situation in Iraq

**Released November 16**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary on the First Lady's announcement of expanded U.S. emergency disaster relief for Central American countries damaged by Hurricane Mitch

**Released November 17**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg, National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling, and Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers on the President's upcoming visit to Japan, South Korea, and Guam

Announcement: President Clinton Announces 1998 Baldrige Quality Award Winners

**Released November 18**

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart on the impeachment inquiry

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II